

2. (Amended) A compound comprising a mediator portion capable of recognizing a target cell-specific molecule and a cytotoxic portion, wherein the cytotoxic second portion is a constitutively active caspase or has substantially the same apoptosis-inducing activity as the caspase.

3. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the target cell-specific portion recognizes and selectively binds to a tumour cell antigen.

4. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 2 wherein the mediator portion recognizes a compound according to Claim 1.

5. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 2 wherein the target cell-specific molecule recognized by the mediator portion is derivatized.

6. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 2 wherein the target cell-specific molecule or the mediator portion is an antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof.

7. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 2 wherein the target cell-specific molecule is internalized upon contact with the target cell.

8. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 2 wherein the target cell-specific molecule or the mediator portion is an HMFG-1 antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof.

9. (Amended) A compound according the Claim 6 wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof is humanized.

10. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the cytotoxic portion is at least the catalytically active portion of the constitutively active caspase.

11. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the cytotoxic portion is a constitutively active effector caspase.

12. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the cytotoxic portion is selected from the group consisting of a constitutively active caspase-3, caspase-6 and caspase-7.

13. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the cytotoxic portion is of mammalian origin.

14. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the cytotoxic portion is a constitutively active variant of a naturally occurring caspase.

15. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the cytotoxic portion is capable of oligomerization.

16. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the compound is a fusion compound.

17. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a compound according to Claim 1, or a target cell-specific portion, mediator portion, or cytotoxic portion thereof.

18. (Amended) A method of making a compound according to Claim 1, the method comprising expressing one or more nucleic acid molecules according to Claim 17 in a host cell and isolating the compound therefrom.

19. (Amended) A vector for expressing in a host cell a compound according to Claim 1 or a portion thereof, the vector comprising one or more nucleic acid molecules according to Claim 17.

21. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

22. (Amended) A compound for use in medicine comprising a compound according to Claim 1.

23. (Amended) A method for treating a disease associated with the dysfunction of a population of cells comprising applying a medicament comprising a compound according to Claim 1.

24. (Amended) The method according to Claim 23 wherein the disease is cancer.

25. (Amended) A method of treating a patient having target cells to be destroyed, the method of comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a